

ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY, KOLKATA

XAVIER LAW SCHOOL

presents



UDGAM

CHAPTER

TWO

2026

A 2-DAY NATIONAL
WORKSHOP ON
**PROTECTING
TRADITIONAL AND
CULTURAL
EXPRESSIONS
THROUGH
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY RIGHTS**

convened by

Prof. Ratul Das

jointly convened by

Dr. Lahama Mazumdar

co-convened by

Prof. Mohor Mitra

5th & 6th

NOVEMBER
Official Event
Brochure



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UDGAM2026 | CHAPTER TWO

A 2-DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
"PROTECTING TRADITIONAL AND CULTURAL
EXPRESSIONS THROUGH INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY RIGHTS"

POSTER PRESENTATION | PANEL DISCUSSION | CULTURAL
DEMONSTRATION | VIDEO PRESENTATIONS | CREATIVE EXPRESSION |
IP AWARENESS QUIZ

convened by
Prof. Ratul Das

jointly convened by
Dr. Lahama Mazumdar

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Prof. Mohor Mitra

5 - 6 NOVEMBER
2026

FR. ALBERT HUART HALL

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK), established on February 8, 2017, is a Jesuit institution that continues a five-century tradition of Jesuit education. The university was formally inaugurated by the former Chief Minister of West Bengal, Smt. Mamata Banerjee, with Mr. L.N. Mittal and Mrs. Usha Mittal in attendance. Spread across 16.64 acres in New Town, the campus provides an expansive learning environment. SXUK runs diverse academic programs: undergraduate degrees in Commerce, Management, English, Mass Communication, Economics, and Law; postgraduate courses in Law, Commerce, English, Economics, Mass Communication, Social Work, and Psychology; as well as doctoral research in multiple disciplines including Law, Commerce, Management, Economics, Science and Engineering. The idea of SXUK originated in 2011 when Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., with the St. Xavier's College Alumni Association, envisioned "SXC Vision 2020." The Government of West Bengal later granted 17 acres of land to make this vision a reality. SXUK aspires to integrate strong academics with ethical values while expanding its facilities in line with "Plan 2025" and the National Education Policy. Within a short span, SXUK has earned recognition as a center of excellence drawing students and faculty from across India and beyond.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Xavier Law School (XLS), a constituent of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, is a dynamic institution established in August, 2019, inaugurated by The Hon'ble (former) Lokpal of India, Mr. Pinaki Chandra Ghosh, committed to advancing legal education and research in India. Established with the vision of fostering excellence in professional legal training alongside scholarly excellence and inquiry in juridical studies - XLS represents a forward-looking initiative in higher education. The school currently offers five-year integrated programs, including the B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) and the B.Com.LL.B. (Hons.), along with 2 years LL.M. courses in Business Law and Criminal Law and Ph.D. courses - designed to blend rigorous academic learning with practical exposure as entrusted by modern infrastructure as the Moot Court Hall and a Law Library adequate with top-notch resources. With the support of St. Xavier's University's rich legacy in education, a highly qualified faculty, and state-of-the-art facilities including two excelling societies focusing on legal practical experiences and a Legal Aid Clinic, XLS has rapidly emerged as a preferred destination for aspiring law professionals seeking quality legal education. Guided by the principles of truth, virtue, and justice, Xavier Law School aspires to cultivate graduates who not only possess indepth legal expertise but also demonstrate the ability to challenge entrenched social norms and address pressing societal issues.

CONCEPT NOTE

Protecting Traditional and Cultural Expressions through Intellectual Property Rights

5–6 November 2026

Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

Background

Traditional and cultural expressions constitute an important part of India's living heritage. Folk traditions, indigenous knowledge, local craftsmanship, classical music, artistic practices, and other forms of cultural expression embody histories, identities, skills, and knowledge transmitted across generations. At the same time, their increasing circulation through commercial, digital, and global platforms has created complex questions concerning ownership, authorship, exploitation, preservation, and access.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) provide several legal mechanisms through which aspects of this heritage may be protected. Copyright, trademarks, Geographical Indications, and sui generis forms of protection may each have a role to play, while existing legal frameworks also raise questions about their adequacy when applied to collective, intergenerational, or community-held cultural expressions.

The problem is therefore not simply one of protecting cultural expressions from unauthorised use. It also concerns identifying who should be entitled to exercise rights over such expressions, how communities can participate in decisions concerning their cultural heritage, and how law can accommodate the distinction between legitimate artistic engagement and commercial or otherwise inappropriate exploitation.

UDGAM 2026 — Chapter Two seeks to create a multidisciplinary platform for examining these questions through legal scholarship, visual and audiovisual communication, discussion, cultural demonstration, and participatory activities.

Central Theme

The two-day national workshop is centered on “Protecting Traditional and Cultural Expressions through Intellectual Property Rights.” The programme brings together questions of intellectual property law with traditional knowledge, indigenous practices, folk art, classical music, cultural heritage, and contemporary forms of digital appropriation.

The programme is designed not merely as a conventional academic workshop, but as an interdisciplinary forum in which participants can explore the relationship between law and culture through multiple forms of expression.

Objectives

UDGAM 2026 — Chapter Two aims to examine the role of intellectual property law in protecting India’s rich traditional and cultural heritage. It seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue, explore legal frameworks such as copyright, trademarks and Geographical Indications, and address contemporary issues including digitisation, AI, commercialisation and cultural appropriation. Through research, creative presentations and interactive activities, the initiative encourages meaningful student and scholarly engagement while exploring how intellectual property can support the preservation of India’s living heritage.

Key Areas of Engagement

- *IP Protection of Folk Traditions:* Examining the role of Geographical Indications, copyright, and sui generis frameworks in protecting folk traditions, local craftsmanship, and indigenous knowledge.
- *Safeguarding Classical Music Heritage:* Exploring legal mechanisms for protecting classical compositions, oral traditions, ragas, and other forms of musical heritage from unauthorised use and exploitation.
- *Cultural Appropriation vs. Cultural Appreciation:* Examining the legal and ethical boundaries between cultural exchange, artistic inspiration, fair use, and commercial exploitation.

EVENT DETAILS

1. Poster Presentation Competition
2. Video Presentation Competition
3. IP Awareness Quiz
4. Manthan (Second Edition) - UDGAM Annual
Memoir



POSTER PRESENTATION COMPETITION

Showcase your research, visual creativity, and legal prowess on an inter-state platform. This competition invites students, scholars, and creators to analyze how Intellectual Property Rights can effectively protect India's living heritage, indigenous traditions, and classical arts.

Themes:

- *“IP Protection of Folk Traditions”*
- *“Safeguarding Classical Music Heritage”*
- *“Cultural Appropriation vs Cultural Appreciation”*

Core Sub-Themes

- *IP Protection of Folk Traditions: Examining Geographical Indications (GI), copyrights, and sui generis protection for local craftsmanship and indigenous knowledge.*
- *Safeguarding Classical Music Heritage: Addressing legal mechanisms to preserve classical compositions, oral traditions, and ragas against unauthorized exploitation.*
- *Cultural Appropriation vs. Cultural Appreciation: Navigating the legal and ethical boundaries between artistic inspiration, fair use, and commercial misuse.*

Competition Structure & Format

- **Eligibility:** Open to undergraduate/postgraduate students (Law, Humanities, Performing Arts), researchers, and faculty members.
- **Team Size:** 4 members per team (10 teams in total).
- **Presentation Standard:** Physical poster display coupled with a 3-minute oral pitch to a panel of expert judges during the workshop.
- **Perks & Recognition:** Trophies, and Certificates of Excellence for winners. All registered participants receive Certificates of Participation.



VIDEO PRESENTATION COMPETITION

Bring legal disputes to life through media. This competition invites participants to research, script, and present real-world legal controversies, copyright infringements, and cultural disputes surrounding traditional knowledge and classical arts.

Core Focus Areas

- *Real-World IP Disputes: Case studies on unauthorized commercial exploitation of indigenous art, classical compositions, or tribal motifs.*
- *Digital Misappropriation: The misuse, AI generation, and illegal distribution of traditional cultural expressions on digital platforms.*
- *Preserving Sacred Traditions: Legal and ethical battles over the trademarking or patenting of traditional medicinal, agricultural, or artistic heritage.*

Competition Structure & Format

- **Eligibility:** Open to undergraduate/postgraduate students (Law, Humanities, Performing Arts), researchers, and faculty members.
- **Team Size:** 4 members per team (10 teams in total).
- **Video Specifications:** A 3 to 5-minute documentary, case breakdown, or analytical video submitted prior to the event. Shortlisted entries will be screened live during the workshop.
- **Perks & Recognition:** Trophies, and Certificates of Excellence for top entries. All participants receive Certificates of Participation.



IP AWARENESS QUIZ

Test your legal sharp-wittedness and speed in a high-octane trivia challenge. Designed to promote intellectual curiosity, this quiz will evaluate participants' grasp of Intellectual Property Rights, landmark legal disputes, classical arts, and the protection of India's living heritage.

Quiz Scope & Focus Areas

- *IP Law Fundamentals: Core principles of Copyrights, Trademarks, Patents, Geographical Indications (GI), and Sui Generis systems.*
- *Traditional Knowledge & Cultural Heritage: Protection of folk art, indigenous practices, classical music traditions, and Biological Diversity laws.*
- *Landmark IP Disputes: Famous case laws, digital IP infringement controversies, and global disputes over cultural appropriation.*

Competition Structure & Format

- **Eligibility:** Open to all registered participants of UDGAM Chapter 2 (Students across Law, Humanities, Performing Arts, Researchers, and Faculty).
- **Team Structure:** Two participants per team
- **Rounds:**
 - a. Preliminary Written Round: Rapid-fire screening test to shortlist top teams.
 - b. Grand Finals: Live stage round featuring buzzer, visual/audio identification, and rapid-fire questions.
- **Perks & Recognition:** Trophies and Certificates of Excellence for top performers. All participants receive Certificates of Participation.

REGISTRATION & FEE STRUCTURE



FEE STRUCTURE

Category	Capacity	Fee (INR)
Basic Attendance	Workshop Access, Lectures and Discussions	NIL (Free)
IP Awareness Quiz	2 members per team	₹100 per participant
Video Presentation Competition	Max 10 teams (Up to 4 members per team)	₹500 per team
Poster Presentation Competition	Max 10 teams (Up to 4 members per team)	₹500 per team

****Note:** Slots for Video Presentation competitions are strictly limited to 10 teams each on a first-come, first-served basis.*



REGISTRATION PROCESS

Step 1: Express Interest via filling up the Google Form

Interested individuals and teams must fill up the Google Form attached below indicating the specific event(s) they wish to participate in (Quiz, Video Presentation, or Poster Presentation).

Note: Participants may choose to participate in Video Presentation and IP Quiz together, however no participant shall register for both Poster Presentation Competition and IP Quiz.



LINK TO GOOGLE FORM FOR UDGAM REGISTRATIONS

[CLICK ON THE HYPERLINKED TEXT TO GET REDIRECTED TO THE FORM]

Step 2: Receive Payment QR Code

Upon receiving your request, the organizing team will reply directly to your email with the official payment QR code and registration link. If anyone registers simultaneously for IP Quiz and Poster Presentation, the registration fee will not be refunded.

Step 3: Complete Payment & Submit Details

Scan the QR code to pay the applicable fee, then reply to the email with your transaction screenshot, Transaction ID, and full participant details (Names, Institution, Department, and Contact Numbers).

Step 4: Receive Final Confirmation

Our team will verify your payment and email you an official registration confirmation and event pass.

FINAL DATE FOR REGISTRATION - 25th October 2026



MANTHAN

SECOND EDITION

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Manthan, the annual memoir of Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, celebrates the ideas, experiences, creativity, and memories that shape our community. As we open submissions for its Second Edition, we invite you to contribute your submission that captures the many aspects of traditional cultural knowledge in our lives and their interactions with the regulatory realms of intellectual property.

WE WELCOME SUBMISSIONS ON

◆ *WRITE-UPS*

Essays • Opinion Pieces • Legal & Contemporary Issues • Personal Reflections • Creative Writing • Poetry • Short Stories • Campus Experiences

◆ *PHOTOGRAPHS*

Campus Life • Events & Activities • Candid Moments • Student Life • Cultural & Academic Events • Creative Photography

◆ *ARTWORKS*

High quality scanned images of original works of fine art

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Submissions must be original and unpublished.
- Written submissions should be well-written, edited, and relevant to the spirit of MANTHAN.
- Photographs should be high-resolution and accompanied by a caption.
- Please include your name, batch/year, programme/designation, and contact details.
- All submissions will be subject to editorial review and selection.

SUBMIT YOUR CONTRIBUTION

✉ Submit your contribution by email to: udgamchapter2@gmail.com

Subject: MANTHAN 2026 | Submission | [Name]

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

16th October 2026



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UDGAM2026 | **CHAPTER TWO**

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